

AUGUST 14, 1976

ANNCR:

THE UNITED STATES HAS WARNED THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
THAT THERE ARE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH WASHINGTON CANNOT GO IN
ACCEPTING A COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL SEA TREATY.

VOICE:

THE WARNING WAS ISSUED YESTERDAY (FRIDAY) BY SECRETARY
OF STATE KISSINGER, IN A TALK TO AMERICAN DELEGATES IN NEW YORK.
THE UNITED STATES, HE INDICATED, HAS GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS IT CAN
IN MAKING CONCESSIONS TO ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF OTHER
NATIONS. ANY LAW OF THE SEA TREATY MUST PROTECT NOT ONLY THE
INTERESTS OF THOSE NATIONS, BUT ALSO THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES.
SECRETARY KISSINGER SPELLED OUT WHY WHEN HE SAID ANY SUCH TREATY
HAS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
WHICH MUST CONSIDER RATIFICATION.

(OPT) WHILE THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS TOWARD SUCH A TREATY, THE UNITED STATES PERCEIVES THREE
AREAS OF NEGOTIATION WHICH ARE STILL DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX
AND ON WHICH A CONSENSUS IS STILL LACKING. THESE ARE--ONE,
DEEP SEA-BED MINING, ON WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY
MADE MAJOR CONCESSIONS. TWO--A METHOD OF PRESERVING FREEDOM
OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WITHIN AN ECONOMIC ZONE OF TWO HUNDRED
MILES OFF THE SHORES OF COASTAL STATES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SAFEGUARDS WITHIN THAT ZONE. AND, THIRD, THE CREATION OF A BINDING,
COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM WHICH THE UNITED STATES
VIEWS AS CRUCIAL TO AN EFFECTIVE BODY OF SEA LAW. (END OPT)

ON DEEP SEA-BED MINING, SECRETARY KISSINGER WARNED THAT
IF AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED SOON, THERE IS A GROWING DANGER
THAT MANY NATIONS WILL TAKE IT ON THEMSELVES TO UNILATERALLY

EXPLOIT THE SEA'S MINERAL AND OIL RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY OF STATE DID NOT SAY SO, IT IS A UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED FACT THAT OF ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD THE UNITED STATES IS THE MOST READY AND QUALIFIED TO LAUNCH SUCH A UNILATERAL EFFORT. HIS WARNING IN EFFECT TOLD THE DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY NATIONS THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR WASHINGTON TO HOLD BACK PRIVATE FIRMS IN THEIR DESIRES TO START OPERATIONS OFF AMERICA'S SHORES.

AS IF TO GIVE EMPHASIS TO THE SECRETARY'S WARNING, THERE WERE TWO DEVELOPMENTS THAT UNDERLINE THE NEED FOR A CODE OF LAW TO GOVERN INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS. IN NEW YORK TODAY (SATURDAY) SECRETARY KISSINGER MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF GREECE AND TURKEY IN AN EFFORT TO EXPLORE WAYS TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTE OVER ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN SEA.

THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE IS NOW BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL. IT INVOLVES THE PRESENCE OF A TURKISH SHIP IN AEGEAN WATERS--WATERS GREECE CLAIMS AS ITS OWN AND WHICH TURKEY MAINTAINS ARE INTERNATIONAL. THE SHIP IS EXPLORING THE AEGEAN SEA BED'S OIL DEPOSITS.

THE DISPUTE INVOLVES CLASSIC ELEMENTS SUCH AS THE CONCEPT OF AN ECONOMIC SEA AND FREEDOM OF RESEARCH IN IT, UNILATERAL EXPLOITATION OF SEA-BED RESOURCES, AND THE NEED FOR A SYSTEM TO SETTLE DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS.

THE OTHER DEVELOPMENT IS A TEMPORARY INJUNCTION HANDED DOWN BY A UNITED STATES COURT TO STAY FOR THE TIME BEING THE SALE OF OIL-DRILLING LEASES TO PRIVATE AMERICAN FIRMS WELL WITHIN THE PROJECTED TWO-HUNDRED MILE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF THE EAST COAST OF THE U.S. THE RULING ACCEPTED ARGUMENTS THAT DRILLING

IN THAT AREA WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT ITS ECONOMY, ITS FISHING GROUNDS AND THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT.

IT IS BECAUSE OF SUCH CASES THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER FRIDAY REPEATED AN ASSERTION HE MADE SOME DAYS AGO TO THE EFFECT THAT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE COULD WELL PROVE TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATION OF OUR TIMES.

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